

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. To further the prosecution of the application, the rejections presented in the Office Action are addressed below.

I. Cancellation of Withdrawn Claims

Claims 20-63 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by “Medical Travel” (accessed as of June 20, 2000 and available at: <http://web.archive.org/web/200001816163204/www.medicaltravel.org/index.html>). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Further, claim 1 has been amended to further distinguish over the cited reference.

a. Discussion of “Medical Travel”

“Medical Travel” provides information on Medical Travel, Inc., a travel agency that caters to people with medical needs (page 4, ¶1). Medical Travel, Inc. arranges cruises and land vacations for dialysis travelers, 24 hour oxygen users, chemotherapy/oncology patients and wheelchair bound travelers (page 4, ¶1). For example, Medical Travel, Inc. arranges dialysis cruises for travelers requiring dialysis treatments at sea (page 4, ¶s 2-3).

On the page titled “Dialysis Cruises and Land Vacations,” there is a link titled “2000-2001 Schedule.” Following this link in the web-accessible document, a schedule of cruises is presented (see attached pages labeled <http://web.archive.org/web/20000816163459/www.medicaltravel.org/dialysis/dialysisprograms.html>). When a link for an individual cruise is selected, for example “M/S MISTRAL - 7 Night Greek Islands - Roundtrip Venice, Italy,” a page is displayed that includes a list of sail dates and prices for the cruise (see attached pages labeled <http://web.archive.org/web/20000823090226/www.medicaltravel.org/dialysis/060300.html>). This page states “TO MAKE RESERVATIONS CALL IRA AT 1-800-778-7953 or 561-361-9384. Deposit of \$500.00 Per Person Is Required With Reservation.” While the page does not describe how the reservation process works, it suggests that it occurs in a

conventional fashion, whereby a client calls the number provided and specifies a cruise and sailing date of interest and provides the deposit to secure a reservation for that voyage.

b. Discussion of Independent Claim 1

Claim 1 recites a method for managing medical care of multiple clients outside of a medical facility, comprising the steps of: accepting reservation information from clients; based on said reservation information, determining that a plurality of the clients have a reservation period within the same temporal range and a reservation location within the same geographic range; ***bundling the plurality of clients into a quantum bundle, wherein the step of bundling comprises limiting the accommodations available to at least one of the plurality of clients based to an accommodation reserved for at least one other client of the plurality of clients;*** providing, for the bundle of clients, an accommodation outside of at least one medical facility; providing clinical services to the bundle of clients while they reside at the accommodation.

Medical Travel does not disclose or suggest “bundling the plurality of clients into a quantum bundle, wherein the step of bundling comprises limiting the accommodations available to at least one of the plurality of clients to an accommodation reserved for at least one other client of the plurality of clients.” In Medical Travel, each client reserves a particular hotel or cruise for a particular time. Even if clients staying at the same hotel or on the same cruise ship at a given time were considered a “quantum bundle” of clients, none of these clients had the accommodations available to them limited to the accommodation reserved for another client in the quantum bundle.

For at least this reason, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over “Medical Travel,” and the rejection of this claim should be withdrawn. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-19 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claim.

II. New Claims

New dependent claims 64-67 have been added herein to further define Applicant's contribution to the art. Claims 64-67 are drawn to the elected group (i.e., Group I). The claims

are fully supported by the Application as filed (see e.g., page 4, lines 23-32 and page 17, lines 2-19). No new matter has been added.

Each of claims 64-67 is believed to be allowable based on its dependency from an allowable independent claim. In addition, each of claims 64-67 recites a feature that is not disclosed or suggested by "Medical Travel." In particular:

"Medical Travel" does not disclose or suggest "selecting a number of patients for the quantum bundle based on a capacity of services and/or service providers, *said capacity being less than a capacity of the accommodation,*" as recited in claim 64.

"Medical Travel" does not disclose or suggest "allowing a first client in the quantum bundle to select the accommodation from available accommodations; and *assigning each subsequent client in the quantum bundle to the accommodation selected by the first client,*" as recited in claim 65.

"Medical Travel" does not disclose or suggest "wherein treatment is received by the plurality of clients at the at least one medical facility, and wherein the at least one medical facility is *within the geographic range,*" as recited in claim 66.

"Medical Travel" does not disclose or suggest "selecting the accommodations for at least one of the plurality of clients *based on an accommodation selected by at least one other client of the plurality of clients,*" as recited in claim 67.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Dated: 5/4/07

Respectfully submitted,

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